

REMARKS:

Claims 1-24 and 55-66 are pending in this application. Claims 25-54 and 67-70 are canceled herein.

In the office action, a restriction requirement was made between group I, claims 27-54 and 68-70 and group II, claims 1-26 and 55-67. Applicant affirms the election of group II, claims 1-26 and 55-67, and cancels herein the claims of group I.

In the Office Action, various claims were objected to (claims 9, 10 and 63) or rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph (claim 21). These claims are amended herein in order to overcome the objections and rejection.

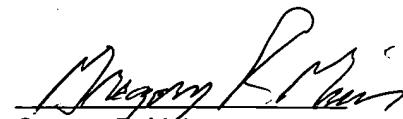
Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-25, 55-61 and 63-66 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yahi et al. (US 6,020,215). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yagi et al, claims 5 and 62 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yagi et al. in view of Lal et al. (6,479,920), and claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(qa) as being unpatentable over Yagi et al. in view of Herrmann (6,449,079). These rejections, as applicable to the pending claims, are traversed.

Claims 26 and 67 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claims 24 and 64 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 26 and 67, respectively, therein. Independent claims 1 and 55 are likewise amended to clarify that the recited components are within the same layer, as opposed to within separate layer as in the Yagi et al. reference. It is believed that, like independent claims 24 and 64, independent claims 1 and 55 are likewise in condition for allowance. Similarly, claims depending from independent claims 1, 24, 55 and 64 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons for allowance of the independent claims. Prompt allowance of all of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge the fees in the amount of \$205.00 for response within the second month to our Deposit Account #501516.

Respectfully submitted,



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